

**Mayor/Council
Town Meeting – 8:00 PM
Wednesday, June 19, 2019
Municipal Building
Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 8:06 PM

Roll Call: CW Noble, CM Kennedy II (left at 9:15 PM, returned), CM Washington, CW Mann, CM Barnes, Mayor Muhammad present. CW Hines absent. Quorum established. CM Kennedy II left the room at 9:15p.m.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Motion by CM Kennedy II to approve the agenda; seconded by CM Washington; all in favor; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes from June 3, 2019: Motion by CM Kennedy II to approve the minutes; seconded by CM Washington; all in favor; motion passed.

Public Period:

Mr. Larry Stoner suggested that the budget be changed to allow for more Public Works employees to clean the streets.

Mr. Christian Molina (translated) made a comment towards the police department regarding handling a case where his property was taken.

Ms. Linda Hernandez (translated) said that the Spanish speaking community is happy that the Police Department is taking their concerns into account and working to build relations with them.

Ms. Toshi Brown presented a petition on behalf of residents on Delaware Drive for the Town to install speed humps on the street. She noted an increase in speeding on the road and felt that the proposed change would make it safer for residents and pedestrians.

Mrs. Lynn Smith Barnes stated that she agreed with the proposed council salary increases, but that she expected more involvement in meetings for county organizations to which the Town paid membership dues, such as PGC.

Legislation

Emergency Ordinance 04-19: An Emergency Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland to approve and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020 budget; introduced by Mayor Habeeb-Ullah Muhammad. Motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Barnes. Motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Emergency Ordinance 04-19; seconded by CM Washington; discussion; CW Noble asked why the budget was adjusted to increase the mayor's salary and made changes to the proposal; Town Treasurer Mrs. Vaughn replied that the changes would not take effect until 2020 for newly elected councilmembers and the budget reflected that. Attorney noted that the budget was approved by ordinance and could be subsequently changed by resolutions. He stated that if the direct line item budget was not approved, then the staff had discretion to change it if it didn't run contrary to the budget in the ordinance. Vote; (6) yes; (0) no; motion passed.

Resolution 32-19 A resolution for the adoption of amendments to the Town Employee Handbook regarding the use of Town laptops, cellphones, and smartphones-and generally relating to electronic access and e-policies; motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy II. Motion by CM Washington to adopt Resolution 32-419; seconded by CM Kennedy II; discussion; vote (5) yes; (1) no; motion passed.

Resolution 33-19: A Resolution for the adoption of guidelines for the Forest Heights Police Department regarding the enforcement of federal immigration law and discrimination profiling; motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CW Mann; all in favor. Motion by CM Washington to adopt Resolution 33-19; seconded by CW Mann; discussion; the Attorney General of Maryland has provided documents for legal guides for local law enforcement on this matter. Attorney Best restated the federal laws for reporting immigration status. Sanctuary city is not a formal legal term, so the resolution does not declare the town to be as such. It incorporates the guidelines from the State of Maryland and Prince George's County. The Chief of Police noted that the department considered this a civil matter; vote; (5) yes; (1) no; motion passed.

Resolution 39-19 A Resolution to accept Francis J. DiSalvo, CPA to perform the year ending June 30, 2019 audit for the Town of Forest Heights; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Washington; motion passed; motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Resolution 39-19; seconded by CM Washington; discussion; CW Noble discussed finding another auditor based on the findings of the Town Attorney, who stated that it is recommended that Auditors be kept for about 5 years; the Town Attorney offered a compromise that a search for competitive bidding on the position begin next year; motion by CM Kennedy II to amend the resolution as recommended by the Town Attorney; seconded by CM Washington; all in favor; vote to adopt the resolution as amended; (5) yes; (1) no; motion passed.

Resolution 41-19 A Resolution to rescind and replace Resolution 26-19 to approve a contract to clean and restore the bio-retention rain garden areas located on the Town Hall property; introduced by Mayor Muhammad; motion by CM Kennedy II to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Washington; all in favor; motion by CM Kennedy II to adopt Resolution 41-19; seconded by CM Washington; discussion; vote; (6) yes; (0) no; motion passed.

Resolution 42-19: A Resolution to award a bid and approve a contract for the Town milling and resurfacing project on Fox Way, Seneca Drive, and Ottawa Street to Choice Concrete Construction Inc.; and generally related to the contract and procurement for public street reconstruction project; introduced by Mayor Muhammad. Motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CW Mann; all in favor; motion by CM Washington to adopt Resolution 42-19; seconded by CW Noble; discussion; vote; (5) yes; (0) no; motion passed.

Resolution 43-19: A Resolution authorizing the Mayor or her designee to enforce pertinent contract terms and make any beneficial claims necessary to proceed towards completion of the 606 Modoc Lane reconstruction project for the new Police and Public Works Departments facility; and generally related to contracts and services for the Town Buildings; introduced by Mayor Muhammad. Motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CW Mann; all in favor; motion by CM Washington to adopt Resolution 43-19; seconded by CW Mann; discussion; CM Mann suggested since we have invested so much money into 606 Modoc would it be a good idea to make that the Administration Building and keep 5508 as the Police and Public Work Department; vote; (5) yes; (1) no; motion passed.

Ordinance 03-19: An Ordinance by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland revising Article 15-Parking and Traffic; of the Town Ordinance Code by changing, adopting, amending, or re-adopting certain provisions of said article including adopting revised Section 15.2-Definitions to include definitions of :commercial trailer, heavy commercial trucks, and light commercial trucks; and by adopting a revised Section 15.3.4-Parking Restrictions; for commercial and recreational vehicles, and trailers on private property; and by amending Section 15.13-Penalties and Fees; to provide a modified penalty for violating said Section 15.3.4; and generally relating to the regulation of traffic and parking within the Town of Forest Heights; introduced by Mayor Muhammad. Motion by CM Washington to waive the full reading; seconded by CM Kennedy II; motion by CM Washington to adopt Ordinance 03-19; seconded by CW Noble; discussion; the Chief of Police noted that they give a 30 day grace/warning period for certain violations. Vote; (4) yes; (1) no; (1) abstain; motion passed.

New Business: CM Washington stated that the Chief of Police would search for grants or donations for Rosetta Stone programs in order to have the police department better communicate with the Town's Spanish speaking community. CW Mann announced that she wanted to add items to the park on Mohican and Fox Way. She also proposed the idea of selling hot dogs for the PTAs Committee for the Elementary School at Forest Heights Day. CM Barnes stated that he would not be able to attend the MML conference.

Message from the Mayor: Mayor Muhammad issued a reminder that the Town is multicultural and that should be reflected in official decisions.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:53 PM